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Message Text

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61
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NEA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 L-01

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:GDKULICK/INR/PMT:JPATTON:NB
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FDICKMAN
AF/E:WBCOOTE (SUBS)
INR/RES:MGOODMAN (SUBS)
INR/RAA:AREID
NEA/ARP:SBUCK
P:ARAPHEL (SUBS)
AF:EWMULCAHY
S/S-O: J. HOGANSON
---------- 127446
O P 020101Z MAY 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 102563

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SA. SO

SUBJECT: SOVIET ACTIVITY IN SOMALIA

REF: JIDDA 3074
IN BRIEFING MAS'UD, AMBASSAODR SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING:
1. SOVIET PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA HAS GROWN STEADILY OVER PAST SIX YEARS TO THE POINT THAT TODAY THERE ARE MORE THAN 2,000 SOVIET MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN SOMALIA. WE BELIEVE THERE ARE SOVIET ADVISORS IN ALMOST EVERY IMPORTANT MINISTRY, AS WELL AS KGB ADVISORS
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WITH NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE. PRESIDENT SIAD'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UTTERANCES ARE DOMINATED BY "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM," MOST OF WHICH HE SEEMS TO HAVE SWALLOWED UN-CRITICALLY FROM SOVIET DOGMA, AND MANY OF SIAD'S SOMALI

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ADVISORS ARE MORE DOCTRINAIRE THAN HE. SOVIET-SOMALI RELATIONSHIP WAS CEMENTED DURING VISIT OF PRESIDENT PODGORNY TO MOGADISCIO IN JULY 1974 IN TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION OF THE TYPE SOVIETS HAVE ONLY WITH IRAQ, EGYPT AND INDIA. WHILE WE BELIEVE SOMALIS WERE INITIALLY RELUCTANT TO TAKE THIS STEP,WE SEE LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT SIAD IS CHAFING UNDER SOVIET DOMINATION, ALTHOUGH RUSSIANS ARE PLAINLY UNPOPULAR WITH RANK-AND-FILE SOMALIS.

2. SOVIETS' CHIEF INTEREST IN SOMALIA LIES IN THE MILITARY

FACILITIES ACCORDED THEM BY SOMALIS IN EXCHANGE FOR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TOTALLING ALMOST $200 MILLION OVER LAST 15 YEARS. MOST RECENTLY, SOVIETS HAVE CONSTRUCTED NAVAL MISSILE SUPPORT FACILITY IN BERBERA, AS POINTED OUT IN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER'S NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW OF MARCH 17, 1975. IN ADDITION, SOVIETS HAVE CONSTRUCTED A 100,000 BARREL POL BUNKERING FACILITY AND A NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT BERBERA. THEY ARE ALSO CONSTRUCTING NEARBY A LARGE AIRFIELD WHICH MAY BE CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING ANY SOVIET MILITARY AIRCRAFT. YOU MAY ALSO TELL THEM THAT SOVIET MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT OCCUPIED AN AIRFIELD IN SOMALIA DURING RECENT SOVIET EXERCISE.

3. BOTH SOMALIS AND SOVIETS HAVE REPEATEDLY AND VOCIFEROUSLY DENIED EXISTENCE OF SUCH SOVIET FACILITIES AND DENOUNCED SUCH ALLEGATIONS AS IMPERIALIST FABRICATIONS DESIGNED TO DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN USSR AND THIRD WORLD AND TO JUSTIFY US MACHINATIONS IN INDIAN OCEAN. SOVIETS HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO IDENTIFY THEIR BERBERA INSTALLATIONS AS A DAIRY, MEAT-PACKING PLANT AND FISH CANNERY. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THEY ARE MILITARY FACILITIES DESCRIBED IN PARA 2, ABOVE. SHOULD SIAD ONCE AGAIN DENY EXISTENCE OF SOVIET FACILITIES, MAS'UD MIGHT TELL HIM THAT IF STORIES ARE UNTRUE, BEST WAY TO DISPEA MISCONCEPTIONS WOULD BE TO INVITE CONTINGENT OF RESPECTED WESTERN AND THIRD WORLD JOURNALISTS ON UNIMPEDED INSPECTION TOUR OF BERBERA TO

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SEE FOR THEMSELVES. ANOTHER WAY WOULD BE TO PERMIT WESTERN NAVAL VESSELS TO CALL AT BERBERA AND OTHER SOMALI PORTS. KISSINGER

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